

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BANGKO 19088 290600Z
ACTION EA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 INR-05 PM-03 PRS-01 SP-02
NSC-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 /037 W
-----094382 290606Z /21

R 290518Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5580
INFO AMEMBASSY SEOUL
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
CINCPAC HONOLULU

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 19088

LIMDIS

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP, (KRIANGSAK, CHAMANAN), PGOV, TH, JA
SUBJECT: KRIANGSAK'S VISIT TO JAPAN

1. JAPANESE EMBASSY MINISTER ODAKA GAVE CHARGE FOLLOWING
BACKGROUND TO GENERAL KRIANGSAK'S UP-COMING SEPT. 2-5
VISIT TO JAPAN.

2. ACCORDING TO ODAKA, KRIANGSAK HAD ORIGINALLY BEEN
INITED BY THE ROKG TO ATTEND OCTOBER 1 ARMED FORCES DAY
CELEBRATIONS IN SEOUL. BECAUSE OF THE HIGH LEVEL CHANGES
IN THAI MILITARY, AT THAT TIME, KRIANGSAK ASKED THAT
HIS VISIT BE MOVED UP ONE MONTH. HE SUBSEQUENTLY
APPROACHED THE JAPANESE EMBASSY ASKING FOR INVITATION TO
VISIT JAPAN ALSO. THIS THE JAPANESE EMBASSY DID THROUGH
JDA WITH A MILITARY PROGRAM BEING ARRANGED FOR KRIANGSAK.

3. ODAKA INDICATED HOWEVER THAT KRIANGSAK KEPT QUIET
PRESSURE ON TO SECURE ALSO APPOINTMENTS WITH HIGH
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POLITICAL LEVELS IN THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT. GIVEN
PRIMIN THANIN'S SEPTEMBER 7 OFFICIAL VISIT, THE
JAPANESE WERE RELUCTANT TO AGREE, PARTICULARLY IN VIEW OF
KRIANGSAK'S KNOWN STRAINED RELATIONSHIP WITH THE PRIME
MINISTER. HOWEVER, ODAKA SAID KRIANGSAK BROUGHT THIS
UP DIRECTLY AT HIS MEETING WITH JAPANESE PRIMIN FUKUDA
HERE AND FUKUDA AGREED TO RECEIVING HIM ON A "COURTESY

CALL." ODAKA INDICATED THAT JAPANESE OBVIOUSLY ARE EMBARRASSED ABOUT BEING CAUGHT IN INTRAMURAL POLITICAL MANEUVERINGS BETWEEN THANIN AND KRIANGSAK.

4. AT SAME TIME, HE INDICATED THAT GOJ IS ALSO SENSITIVE TO THE PROBLEM OF THE TENURE OF THE THANIN GOVERNMENT. ON THAT SCORE, HE INDICATED LATEST JAPANESE ESTIMATE IS THAT THERE MAY BE PARTIAL CABINET RESHUFFLE IN SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER PERIOD, BUT THAT THANIN WOULD STAY ON AS PRIME MINISTER FOR AT LEAST TWO MONTHS AFTER HIS TOKYO VISIT.

5. COMMENT: IN CONTEXT RECENT REPORTING, KRIANGSAK'S OBVIOUS MOVE TO UNDERCUT THANIN IN TOKYO AND POSSIBLY IN SEOUL IS VISIBLE INDICATOR OF HIS EFFORTS TO CREATE A MORE POLITICAL, STATESMANLIKE IMAGE FOR HIMSELF.
O'DONOHUE

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